

REMARKS

The Office action dated December 16, 2005, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in response thereto.

Claim 4 stands rejected because of an informality on line 1, which has been corrected in accordance with the suggestion of the Office action.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 14, 15, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The basis for this rejection has been overcome by amending the claims by replacing "stabilizer bar" with "body" in accordance with the suggestion of the Office action.

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Kraps (the '148 patent). The claims have been amended such that they define an end link formed with a concave spherical inner support surface, into which is received a spherical bearing. The '148 patent discloses an end link having a cylindrical bore into which is fitted a spherical bearing. The '148 patent does not anticipate the claims of this application, as amended.

Claims 1, 14, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Hynds (the '216 patent). Hynds discloses a stabilizer bar comprises an end link formed with a convex spherical inner support surface, which mates with a concave bearing 24. The claims of the present application have been amended to define an end link whose inner support surface is a concave spherical surface. The '216 patent does not anticipate the claims of this application, as amended.

Claims 4, 6, and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Hynds in view of Joerg (the '602 patent). The Office action acknowledges that Hynds does not disclose a lock washer. The '602 patent is cited for teaching a lock washer for frictionally engaging the outer surface of a body. The Office action states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hynds with the teachings of Joerg to provide a lock washer on the stabilizer body between the end link and the end of the stabilizer bar to securely fasten the end link to the bar. Claims 4, 6, and 7 each depend ultimately from

Claim 1, which has been patentably distinguished over Hynds as described above. Neither Hynds nor Joerg discloses or suggests an end link formed with a concave spherical inner support surface, into which is received a spherical bearing. Claim 20, a new claim, defines the stabilizer bar as having a lock washer embedded within the spherical bearing, as illustrated in Figure 4 and described in the specification. None of the prior art references teach use of a lock washer that is embedded in a spherical bearing and engages the body.

Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Hynds in view of Wolf (the '613 patent). The Office action acknowledges that Hynds fails to show securing the bearing with an adhesive, but it cites Wolfe for teaching a stabilizer bar 13 with a bearing 9 secured to the bar with an adhesive 12. Claim 18 depends from Claim 1, which has been patentably distinguished over Hynds and the other prior art references as discussed above. Therefore, Claim 18 is patentably distinguished over the combination that would result by combining Hynds and Wolf.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 14, 15, 18, and 20 appear now in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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